

Application # 10/725,041
Office Action Response dated January 6, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated October 6, 2005

PATENT
P-6059

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A safety needle system, comprising:

a hub housing having a first end and an opposed second open end with a passageway extending therebetween;

an elongated shield housing having a first open end and an opposed second open end with a passageway extending therebetween;

a needle cannula having a distal puncture tip, the needle cannula extending from the hub housing with at least a portion of the needle cannula extending through the passageway of the shield housing;

a biasing member acting on the shield housing to bias the shield housing from a first biased position adjacent the hub housing toward a second position covering the distal puncture tip of the needle cannula; and

an engagement mechanism extending dorsally from the hub housing, the engagement mechanism in releasable engagement with a portion of the shield housing for releasably retaining the shield housing in the first biased position;

wherein engagement of the engagement mechanism with the shield housing maintains the shield housing in the first biased position adjacent the hub housing, and wherein activation of the engagement mechanism releases the engagement mechanism from engagement with a portion of the shield housing, thereby releasing the shield housing from the biased position and permitting the biasing member to cause the shield housing to move toward the second position,

wherein a portion of the shield housing extends within the passageway of the hub housing,

wherein the hub housing further comprises at least one flexible cut out portion along a wall thereof, said flexible cut out portion biased inwardly toward said passageway of said hub housing.

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2. (Original) The safety needle system as in claim 1, wherein the engagement mechanism comprises a first member extending dorsally from the hub housing, and a second member extending from a portion of the first member and in engagement with a portion of the shield housing, the second member moveable with respect to the first member so as to release from engagement with the shield housing.
3. (Original) The safety needle system as in claim 2, wherein the shield housing includes a latch element extending dorsally from the shield housing, the latch element including a recess or opening therein for engagement with the engagement mechanism of the hub housing.
4. (Original) The safety needle system as in claim 3, wherein the second member of the engagement mechanism includes a hook element for engagement with the recess or opening of the latch element.
5. (Original) The safety needle system as in claim 4, wherein the second member of the engagement mechanism is connected to the first member of the release arrangement through a fulcrum.
6. (Original) The safety needle system as in claim 5, wherein the first and second members of the engagement mechanism include corresponding surfaces for movement toward each other about said fulcrum, thereby causing movement of said hook element out of engagement from said recess or opening of said latch element.
7. (Original) The safety needle system as in claim 1, wherein said hub housing further comprises structure for attachment to a medical device.
8. (Original) The safety needle system as in claim 1, wherein the biasing member comprises a compression spring.
9. (Cancelled).

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10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) The safety needle system as in claim ~~10~~ 1, wherein said flexible cut out portion is adapted for engagement with a portion of said shield housing when said shield housing is in said second position to prevent a return movement of said shield housing to said first position.

12. (Original) The safety needle system as in claim 1, further comprising a pair of flexible wings extending from opposing lateral sides of said hub housing.

13. (Original) The safety needle assembly as in claim 12, wherein the engagement mechanism extending dorsally from the hub housing bisects the flexible wings extending from opposing lateral sides of the hub housing, and wherein bending of the flexible wings toward a dorsal position does not cause activation of the engagement mechanism.

Claims 14. to 23. (Cancelled)